

The Eben Dale Sutton Room was completed and open to the public on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1869. During George Peabody's Oct. 15, 1866 visit, Eliza Sutton made an offer of \$20,000 for a reference room to house "books of enduring value" in memory of her son Eben Dale who had died at the age of 14 in 1862. Her husband, Eben, 1803-1864, had recently died. After a delighted acceptance by the trustees, construction was begun and the tower added onto the back of the library became the Eben Dale Sutton Room.

When it was finished, the room was 28' 6" wide by 48' long and 22' high. The ceiling was just restored to what it was in 1869. (Story of finding original stenciling). The bookcases are made of black walnut and drapery of dark maroon hung on the wall with Eben Dale's portrait. The woodwork, bookcases were designed by Sargent and built by Messrs. Clark and Giddings (both of Peabody.) The original painting and frescoing was done by W.J. Macpherson and the tables, chairs and other furniture was bought from H. A. Turner & Co. of Boston. The portrait was done by A. Harwell of Boston. Eben and Eliza's portraits were donated by Mrs. Herbert K. Pevear in 1910. The bust of Eben in the foyer was sculpted by Thomas Ball and given by Eliza before her death in 1888.

The floor originally was covered by a Brussels carpet, which is done in worsted yarn drawn into loops. The original furnishings were purchased by Eliza as an addition donation and cost \$13,000. The wall around portrait was redone in 1882. The parquet floor was laid in 1905. The Milton Shield was given by Eliza in 1877. It's a copy of the one in London.

Throughout the years the room has periodically been redone. In 1911 the walls and woodwork were cleaned, the walls redone and the floor resanded. It was done again in 1933. And in 1953 the ceiling was replastered.

Order of G. P. donations to library:

\$20,000 to start Institute during 1852 Centennial celebration of Danvers. \$10,000 was to be a permanent fund. When it was discovered it would cost more, G. P. donated another \$10,000. Cornerstone laid Aug. 20, 1853, library opened Sept. 23, 1854. George visits in 1856, Oct. 9, Gives another \$20,000 and \$10,000 was given to Danvers to start a library. G. P. bust by J. S. Jones and Chickering piano was donated. Replaced by another one in 1919. No info on what happened to original. 1866 Oct. visits again, gives \$100,000 to library, \$40,000 to Danvers. Also gives Victoria's portrait. G. P. visits again in Sept. 1869, gives another \$50,000. Reserve fund established. Dies Nov. 4, 1869. \$210,000 to library, other \$7,600 in books, etc.

Mary J. Floyd, Librarian from 1869 to June 1881. (12-13 years)

Sarah E. Perkins, Librarian from March to October 1882.

Augusta F. Daniels, October 1882 to Jan. 25, 1908. (26 years)

Frances M. Carroll from Jan. 1908 to March 3, 1945. (37 years)

Louise H. Teague, from March 1945 to 1958. (13 years)

Dorothy Cooper, Librarian from 1958 to June 1973. 15 years)



In 1973, talk of closing Sutton Room and discussion with Ms. Cooper about her retirement plans. She retired June 1973. From that time until 2002, discussion fluctuated over the need for an Archives, but never resolved itself until 2002.  
Bricks from tower were saved when removed (what happened to them)

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